

Circular Letter No. 488.

December 5, 1907.

To Superintendents.

Gentlemen:

This general programs for the December Teacher's Meetings or any part thereof may be followed or not, at the superintendent's option.

The subject after each humbered subhead should be assigned for presentation to a teacher and a short general discussion should follow every such presentation. The superintendent may reserve the right to present any subject himself instead of designating a teacher therefor. These subjects should be assigned to teachers as long a time as possible in advance of the date set for the meeting and the teachers so selected should prepare themselves carefully for presentation of same. The presentation should be made orally rather than in the form of a written address.

#### SCHOOL GARDENS

1. Native plants of decorative value.
2. Where and how they can be secured.
3. How pupils can be interested in getting same.
4. The work of having pupils plan and make the garden.
5. Manner of caring for garden.

## MOVEMENT OF PUPILS THROUGH GRADES.

1. What our school statistics for previous years show.
2. Why do pupils spend so much time in the first grade?
- 3- What should be the minimum age limit for admission to the first grade?
4. Advantages and disadvantages of promoting bright pupils during the year.
5. Should the final examination be the sole basis for promotion or should the class work during the year be taken into consideration?

## NATURE STUDY

1. What Nature Study really is and what it means.
2. Results we have secured.
3. Failure of teachers to work toward definite end in teaching thisssubject.
4. Danger of making instruction in Nature Study a mere language lesson.
5. Methods that should be employed in teaching this subject.

## DIVISION OF A GRADE INTO TWO GROUPS.

1. Its advantages and disadvantages;
2. Kind of work to be assigned to pupils in study periods.
3. Length of time proper for study periods in the various grades.

4. How the teacher can hear one group recite and at the same time see that the other group is busy.

#### SCHOOL ATHLETICS.

1. Importance of instilling and fostering in pupils the true spirit of sportsmanship.
2. How to awaken interest of pupils in athletics.
3. Ways and means of securing necessary outfits.
4. Manner of properly controlling the pupils in the different sports.

A lecture illustrated by stereopticon views would serve as an excellent feature for an evening session to which the parents of the pupils should be invited as well as the teacher. The Department owns two stereopticons, one of the dissolving view pattern operated by electricity and the other a Bright White Light outfit operated by kerosene. There are also about 180 views, some of which are colored, relating to physical geography, events in United States History, the wonders of American scenery and other interesting subjects. These stereopticons and views are at the disposal of the superintendents for use at such evening sessions. Supt. Conant of Yauco, has courteously offered to exchange temporarily for the same purpose, the stereopticon views which he has, for any views which any of the superintendents may have.

The Department has also a lecture in Spanish to accompany a number of views sufficient for an evening's entertainment, and this lecture is likewise at the disposal of the superintendent.

Respectfully,

Commissioner of Education

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REA 3622